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Diana T Fritz 03/15/2007 04:05:01 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

January 21, 2004

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 240 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR  
Captions: None  
Subject: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: SPE JAMES BAKER'S VISIT TO THE UAE  
Ref: None

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 00240

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: PAO  
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM  
Laser1:  
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:HOWINDECKER  
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB  
CLEARED: PAO:HOWINDECKER

VZCZCADI835  
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZN RUEHLO RUEHFR  
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC  
DE RUEHAD #0240 0211405  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 211405Z JAN 04  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3088  
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0762  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0797  
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT  
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//  
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 000240

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/P, INR  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA  
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: OIIP KMDR TC  
SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: SPE JAMES BAKER'S VISIT TO THE UAE

¶1. SUMMARY: THE 01/20 VISIT OF SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY JAMES BAKER TO THE UAE TO DISCUSS IRAQI DEBT RECEIVED PROMINENT

COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. REPORTS AND PHOTOS WERE ON FIRST PAGE OF MOST PAPERS; THERE WAS NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

¶12. UAE ARABIC AND ENGLISH DAILIES REPORTED PROMINENTLY THE VISIT OF FORMER SECRETARY BAKER TO THE UAE AND HIS MEETING WITH HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED AL NAHAYAN, ABU DHABI CROWN PRINCE AND DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE UAE ARMED FORCE. SHEIKH HAMDAN BIN ZAYED, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALSO ATTENDED THIS MEETING.

¶13. ARTICLES WRITTEN BASED ON THE FIRST REPORT FILED BY THE EMIRATI NEWS AGENCY (WAM) REPORTED THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON THE SITUATION IN IRAQ, EFFORTS TO REBUILD IRAQ, AND IRAQI DEBTS. BOTH SIDES AFFIRMED THAT POLITICAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN IRAQ ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE REGION'S STABILITY AND PEACE. ARTICLES WRITTEN AFTER THE SECOND OFFICIAL REPORT BY WAM STATED THAT SHEIKH KHALIFA ASSURED SPE BAKER THAT THE UAE IS COMMITTED TO HELP THE IRAQI PEOPLE TO REBUILD IRAQ AND THAT IT WILL CANCEL MOST OF THE IRAQI DEBTS AND IS WILLING TO START NEGOTIATING THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (NOTE: MOST ARABIC SPEAKERS TRANSLATE THIS IDEA AS "MOST OF IRAQ'S DEBTS", HOWEVER SUBSEQUENT ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY WAM SAID "MAJOR PART OF ITS OUTSTANDING LOANS".)

¶14. HEADLINES IN THE ENGLISH DAILIES READ:

- DUBAI-BASED ENGLISH DAILY "GULF NEWS": "UAE READY TO LAUNCH TALKS ON IRAQ'S DEBTS."
- DUBAI-BASED ENGLISH DAILY "KHALEEJ TIMES": "KHALIFA, BAKER DISCUSS REGIONAL ISSUES."
- SHARJAH-BASED ENGLISH DAILY "GULF TODAY": "UAE IS READY TO WAIVE MOST OF IRAQ'S DEBTS, KHALIFA TELLS BAKER."

HEADLINES IN ARABIC DAILIES READ:

- ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-OFFICIAL ARABIC DAILY "AL-ITTIHAD": "KHALIFA: UAE IS COMMITTED TO CANCELLING MOST OF THE IRAQI DEBTS."
- DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED ARABIC DAILY "AL-BAYAN": "KHALIFA: THE UAE WILL CANCEL MOST OF THE IRAQI DEBTS."
- SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ": "THE UAE WILL CANCEL MOST OF THE IRAQI DEBTS."
- ABU DHABI-BASED ARABIC DAILY "AKHBAR AL-ARAB": "KHALIFA DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENTS AND IRAQI DEBTS WITH BAKER."
- ABU DHABI-BASED ARABIC DAILY "AL WAHDA": "KHALIFA AFFIRMS THAT THE UAE IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORT SECURITY AND STABILITY OF IRAQI PEOPLE."

WAHBA